

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1830
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
PROTECTION OF MANNAR MARINE NATIONAL PARK
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Gulf of Mannar Division was constituted in 1991 in the Forest Department;
- (b) if so, the details of the objectives and purpose envisaged for the same;
- (c) whether the said Division is on the verge of being defunct;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of actions taken, if any, to protect the Mannar Marine National Park?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) In the year 1986, the Government of Tamil Nadu under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 notified the intention to declare 21 Islands as Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.
- (b) The objective and purpose indicated in the Notification is to protect wildlife therein and its environment.
- (c) No, Sir. As reported by the State Government, this Division is one of the most active divisions in the State. The field staff is working very hard to conserve marine wildlife and its habitat and the Division has detected number of cases regarding coral mining and illegal fishing.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Steps taken by Government to protect the Mannar Marine National Park are as follows -v Regular patrolling is conducted by the Forest Field staff for protection of Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park. v Suspected locations on tip off are being raided.v Number of cases of poaching of Sea Cucumber, illegal trade and possession of Dugong meat, Seashell, Sea horse and Sea turtle have been detected during this year in Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park and cases are filed in the Courts.v Efforts are underway to involve the local fishermen for protection of bio-diversity in Gulf of Mannar by forming Eco-Development Committee, already a large number of fishermen youth are being engaged by Forest Department for protection work in Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.